**FRIDAY JANUARY 21 – SECOND WEEK O.T. [C]**

**He went up the mountain and summoned those whom he wanted and they came to him. He appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) that they might be with him and he might send them forth to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.**

**Moses goes up to the mountain, he speaks to the Lord. He goes down from the mountain bringing his people the Word of his God. Here is what the Book of Exodus tells:** “**Moses went up the mountain to God. Then the LORD called to him and said, "Thus shall you say to the house of Jacob; tell the Israelites: You have seen for yourselves how I treated the Egyptians and how I bore you up on eagle wings and brought you here to myself. Therefore, if you hearken to my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my special possession, dearer to me than all other people, though all the earth is mine. You shall be to me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation. That is what you must tell the Israelites." So Moses went and summoned the elders of the people. When he set before them all that the LORD had ordered him to tell them, the people all answered together, "Everything the LORD has said, we will do." Then Moses brought back to the LORD the response of the people. The LORD also told him, "I am coming to you in a dense cloud, so that when the people hear me speaking with you, they may always have faith in you also." When Moses, then, had reported to the LORD the response of the people, the LORD added, "Go to the people and have them sanctify themselves today and tomorrow. Make them wash their garments and be ready for the third day; for on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai before the eyes of all the people. Set limits for the people all around the mountain, and tell them: Take care not to go up the mountain, or even to touch its base. If anyone touches the mountain, he must be put to death. No hand shall touch him; he must be stoned to death or killed with arrows. Such a one, man or beast, must not be allowed to live. Only when the ram's horn resounds may they go up to the mountain." Then Moses came down from the mountain to the people and had them sanctify themselves and wash their garments. He warned them, "Be ready for the third day. Have no intercourse with any woman."**

**On the morning of the third day there were peals of thunder and lightning, and a heavy cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. But Moses led the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stationed themselves at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was all wrapped in smoke, for the LORD came down upon it in fire. The smoke rose from it as though from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently. The trumpet blast grew louder and louder, while Moses was speaking and God answering him with thunder. When the LORD came down to the top of Mount Sinai, he summoned Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up to him. Then the LORD told Moses, "Go down and warn the people not to break through toward the LORD in order to see him; otherwise many of them will be struck down. The priests, too, who approach the LORD must sanctify themselves; else he will vent his anger upon them." Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot go up to Mount Sinai, for you yourself warned us to set limits around the mountain to make it sacred." The LORD repeated, "Go down now! Then come up again along with Aaron. But the priests and the people must not break through to come up to the LORD; else he will vent his anger upon them. So Moses went down to the people and told them this." (Ex 19, 3-26) Jesus, too, goes up to the mountain to meet his Father and to speak to Him, or better, to let himself be spoken by Him. He does not go down from the mountain with a Word of his Father to say to the people who wait for him at the feet of the mountain. Instead, He goes down bringing into heart the name of the Twelve man he shall choose and prepare so that tomorrow they fulfil his mission of redemption and of salvation to all the people. The Father has indicated these names and he chooses these names.**

**Let us read the text of Mk 3,13-19**

**He went up the mountain and summoned those whom he wanted and they came to him. He appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) that they might be with him and he might send them forth to preach and to have authority to drive out demons: (he appointed the twelve:) Simon, whom he named Peter; James, son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James, whom he named Boanerges, that is, sons of thunder; Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus; Thaddeus, Simon the Cananean, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him.**

**It is righteous to say a word of evangelic light, light of Holy Spirit, light of eternal Wisdom about the ministry of the Apostles of the Lord. The mission of Christ Jesus consisted of showing the Father and of creating the truth of the Father, through the creation of his truth, in the heart of the Apostles. The mission of the Apostles is that of showing Christ to every man and of writing the most pure truth of Christ in the heart of every man. It is evident that this might happen in the measure in which Christ is written in their heart. If their heart is deprived of Christ, Christ Jesus might be written in no other heart through them. But also if they have a false Christ, they might write a false Christ. This truth obliges every Apostle of Christ Jesus to write Christ the Lord in his heart at the highest of the truth and of the light emanating from his Person, from his mission, from his cross. If the Apostle of the Lord does not perfectly write Christ Jesus in his heart, he might never write him in the heart of his brothers. The fact that today Christ is no longer written into hearts attests that He is not written in our heart. What are the fruits of the non-writing of Christ in hearts? The reduction of our faith to a pure event of sole, miserable, despicable immanence. May the Mother of God free us from this falsification of the mystery.**